

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 2, 4-17, 19, 20, and 22-24 are allowed.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest reasonable prior art to the instant application does not disclose or suggest the positioning of an analog-to-digital converter between the transducer and connector and separate from the ultrasound imaging system and imaging system housings. Picatti et al (US 6,117,085) discloses an analog to digital converter within the transducer housing itself, Marian Jr. (US 7,022,080 B2) discloses a separable connector housing between the imaging system and transducer system, but lacks an analog-to-digital converter between the connector housing and ultrasound transducer housing. While analog to digital converters and connector housings are both known in the art, there does not exist a reference with a releasable connector mating with the imaging transducer housing, through an analog-to-digital converter, and into a connector housing which is 'positionable' against an imaging system housing.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOEL M. LAMPRECHT whose telephone number is (571)272-3250. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00 Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian L. Casler can be reached on (571) 272-4956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/BRIAN CASLER/
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JMI